IN THE CLAIMS:

1-13. (cancelled)

14. (new) A method for generating an intelligent printer data stream (IPDS), comprising the steps of:

combining into groups print data describing a plurality of pages to be printed by an IPDS command "DGB";

assigning a respective level to the groups whereby a specific operation number is respectively assigned in advance to the individual levels, the levels are respectively represented by a level number, and the operations are respectively represented by an operation number;

providing a linkage between all level numbers and all operation numbers such that the level numbers can unambiguously be assigned an operation number;

determining by means of the linkage which operation is assigned to a specific level; and

wherein there are m operations, and the operation numbers assume only values i from 1 to m, so that via the linkage, the level number, whose modulo of m plus 1 corresponds to the operation number, is associated with that operation number.

15. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein all active levels are saved in a table.

16. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein the level number is an eight-digit binary number, the operation number is an n-digit binary number where n is smaller than eight, and the linkage is designed such that a specific level number is associated with the operation number that coincides with at least n predetermined digits of the level number.

17. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein frequently occurring operations are assigned to more levels than less frequently occurring operations.

18. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein an active list is maintained in which the level numbers of all active levels are entered.

19. (new) A computer-readable medium encoding a software program comprising instructions for generating an intelligent printer data stream (IPDS) in a computer sending print data to a printer, by the steps of:

combining print data describing a plurality of pages to be printed into groups by an IPDS command "DGB";

respectively assigning a level to the groups whereby a specific operation number is respectively assigned in advance to the individual levels, the levels being respectively represented by a level number, and the operations being respectively represented by an operation number;

providing a linkage between all level numbers and all operation numbers such that the level numbers are unambiguously assigned an operation number;

with the linkage determining which operation is assigned to a specific level; and

wherein there are m operations, and the operation numbers assume only values i from 1 to m, so that via the linkage, the level number, whose modulo of m plus 1 corresponds to the operation number, is associated with that operation number.

20. (new) A computer for generating an intelligent print data stream (IPDS) sent by the computer to a printer, comprising:

print data describing a plurality of pages to be printed being combined into groups by an IPDS command "DGB";

a level being respectively assigned to the groups whereby a specific operation number being respectively assigned in advance to the individual levels, the levels being respectively represented by a level number, and the operations being respectively represented by an operation number;

a linkage between all level numbers and all operation numbers such that the level numbers are unambiguously assigned an operation number;

the linkage determining which operation is assigned to a specific level; and

wherein there are m operations, and the operation numbers assume only values i from 1 to m, so that via the linkage, the level number, whose modulo of m plus 1 corresponds to the operation number, is associated with that operation number.

21. (new) A computer for interpreting a data stream for a printer, comprising:

print data describing a plurality of pages to be printed being combined into groups by an IPDS command "DGB";

a level being respectively assigned to the groups whereby a specific operation number being respectively assigned in advance to the individual levels, the levels being respectively represented by a level number, and the operations being respectively represented by an operation number;

a linkage between all level numbers and all operation numbers such that the level numbers are unambiguously assigned an operation number;

the linkage determining which operation is assigned to a specific level; and

wherein there are m operations, and the operation numbers assume only values i from 1 to m, so that via the linkage, the level number, whose modulo of m plus 1 corresponds to the operation number, is associated with that operation number.

22. (new) The computer according to claim 21 wherein the computer is a controller to control at least one of a print device, a print pre-processing device, and a print post-processing device.

23. (new) The computer according to claim 22 wherein the computer is mechanically separate from at least one of the print device, the print pre-processing device, and the print post-processing device.

24. (new) A method for generating an intelligent printer data stream (IPDS), comprising the steps of:

combining into groups print data describing a plurality of pages to be printed by an IPDS command;

assigning a respective level to the groups whereby a specific operation number is respectively assigned to the individual levels, the levels are respectively represented by a level number, and the operations are respectively represented by an operation number;

providing a linkage between level numbers and operation numbers such that the level numbers can unambiguously be assigned an operation number;

determining by means of the linkage which operation is assigned to a specific level; and

wherein there are m operations, and the operation numbers assume only values i from 1 to m, so that via the linkage, the level number, whose modulo of m plus 1 corresponds to the operation number, is associated with that operation number.